



OADBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1942



Mr. Chairman, Madam, and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my fourth annual report on the health of your district.

In accordance with instructions received from the Ministry of Health the report is again produced in a very abbreviated form.

The general health of the district has been good, the birth rate has risen, the death rate remains low, and the infant mortality rate is only half that for the whole of England and Wales.

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth rate per thousand estimated resident population 1942	14.2
Birth rate for England and Wales 1942	15.8
Death rate (crude) per thousand estimated population	10.2
Death rate (corrected) - not available	
Death rate for England and Wales 1942	11.6
Deaths from puerperal causes:	nil
Puerperal mortality rate for England and Wales per thousand total live and still births	2.01
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:	
Legitimate (Male 2, Female nil) Total	2
Illegitimate	nil
Infant mortality rate per thousand live births	26.
Infant mortality rate for England and Wales	49
Deaths from certain diseases:	
Infectious diseases (other than tuberculosis)	nil
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	nil
Cancer	8

Rules for the Recording of Vital Statistics during Wartime

Special rules drawn up by the General Register Office have been summarised in my annual reports for 1939-41.

Two separate series of birth statistics have been maintained since 1st October, 1939. As from 1st January, 1942, the second of these series has been discontinued and the registration of all births is now referred to the area of the mother's usual residence. The figures thus obtained are to be used for the calculation of both birth rates and infant and maternal mortality rates.

The position as regards Oadby is therefore that births and deaths amongst evacuees temporarily residing in the district are transferred to the area of usual residence. Cases of infectious disease, however, are included in the local statistics of the area.

During the year 1942 two cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified; both in evacuees. In accordance with the above rules these cases are included in the local records although the notifications of the births to which they relate have been transferred to the area of the mother's usual residence.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

I am indebted to the sanitary inspector, Mr. Edgar Fryer, for the following details:-

Public Cleansing and Salvage

A fortnightly collection of house refuse is carried out by the council's staff, who also undertake the emptying of pail closets and cesspools.

An energetic salvage campaign has been carried out by the council, and paper, rags, bones, bottles, jars, ferrous and non-ferrous metals and kitchen refuse are collected.

Closet Accommodation

Total numbers in the district on 31st December, 1942

(a)	Privies	-	nil
(b)	Pail closets	-	34
(c)	Water closets	-	1715

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Total number of	complaints received during the year	14
"	" " defects or nuisances discovered	39
"	" " inspections	379
"	" " preliminary notices served (Housing	27
"	" " " " " (Other notices	11
"	" " " " " complied with (Housing	22
"	" " " " " (Other notices	11

No statutory or summary action has been taken during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No. of dwelling houses found infested	...	nil
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Inspection of Dwelling Houses

1. (a)	Total no. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	178
(b)	No. of inspections made for the purpose	186
2.	No. of dwelling houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations 1925 and 1932	nil
3.	No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	nil
4.	No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or its officers	7
5.	No. of defective dwelling houses in respect of which action under statutory powers was taken	nil
6.	No. of cases of overcrowding reported during the year	nil
7.	No. of houses erected during 1942	nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

Retailers:-	No. on register	22
(other than	No. of inspections of premises	10
cowkeepers)	No. of contraventions found	nil
Producers:-	No. on register	7
(including those	No. of inspections made	12
who retail milk)	No. of contraventions found	nil

Meat and Other Foods

There are no regional slaughter houses in the district.

The only animals slaughtered for food were 45 pigs. None of the carcasses were condemned.

No. of Inspections

Meat Stalls	nil
Meat Shops and Stores	26
Places where food (other than meat) is kept and prepared for sale	8

THE PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Notifiable Diseases

The year has been characterised by the occurrence of epidemics of scarlet fever and measles amongst children, 28 cases of scarlet fever and 56 of measles being notified. The incidence of other notifiable diseases was very low and with the exception of tuberculosis, no deaths occurred from any infectious disease.

Table showing cases of infectious disease notified during the year.

Disease	Age												+ All Ages	Cases adm. to Hosp.	Deaths
	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65+			
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet fever	-	-	1	3	3	13	4	-	-	-	-	1	28	27	-
Diphtheria	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-
Whooping cough	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Measles	3	1	3	5	18	22	3	-	-	-	1	-	56	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Cerebro-spinal fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	2	-
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	2	-

+ Includes some cases whose ages are not available.

No cases of encephalitis lethargica, anterior poliomyelitis or erysipelas were notified.

Diphtheria

Two cases of diphtheria occurred during the year, one a child of two years of age and the other an adult. Neither case had been immunised.

Free immunisation against diphtheria is offered to all children and special efforts are made to encourage mothers to have their children immunised at the age of one year.

80 children under the age of five years and 47 between the ages of 5 and 15 years were immunised by your medical officer during the year, and in addition a considerable number of children were immunised by their own doctors. On 31st December, 1942, it was estimated that of all the children in the district, 49.5% of those under 5 years and 85.6% of those between the ages of 5 and 15 had been immunised.

Scabies

The incidence of scabies has continued to remain low throughout the district.

Tuberculosis

Three new cases of respiratory tuberculosis (one male aged 30 and two females aged 13 and 50 respectively), and three new cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis (one male aged 9 and two females aged 3 and 31 years of age), were notified during the year.

There were three deaths from respiratory tuberculosis (two males aged 39 and 45 years and one female aged 69). There were no deaths from non-respiratory tuberculosis.

EVACUATION

The Oadby Frith has been requisitioned for evacuation purposes and in April 1942 was opened as a pre-natal hostel for the use of evacuated expectant mothers. A maximum of 41 women can be accommodated at any one time and during the period April-December 1942, 226 women were admitted. The hostel has functioned smoothly from the beginning and thanks are due to the matron, Mrs. Ventris, S.R.N., for her energetic administration and for the preservation of the happy atmosphere which exists amongst the expectant mothers.

In addition to the 226 admissions at the Oadby Frith, 106 evacuees, 70 of whom were expectant mothers, were billeted in private houses.

At the Wayside Maternity Home 316 expectant mothers were admitted during the year, 314 live babies were born and there were 7 still births. No miscarriages or maternal deaths occurred.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In conclusion I desire to acknowledge my thanks to the Urban District Council and to the officers and members of its staff for the help and co-operation which they have rendered during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

ALEC E. MARTIN, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.